



People rally outside the Capitol in support of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), during a demonstration on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Oct. 6, 2022.

Associated Press

Immigration will vex Biden no matter who controls Congress

By COLLEEN LONG
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — At a recent White House ceremony honoring Hispanic heritage in the U.S., President Joe Biden spoke of how immigration has defined the nation and should be celebrated.

"We say it all the time, but that's who we are," Biden said. "That's the nation. We are a nation of immigrants."

Biden pledged himself to "fixing our immigration system for good." He's tackling near-term issues like reuniting migrant families separated during the previous administration and addressing clogs in the asylum system.

And his border officials have worked to reduce the chaos along the U.S.-Mexico line.

But an increasingly divided nation can't agree on what a longer-term fix to the system should look like -- basic questions like should there be more immigrants coming in, or fewer? And the future of key policies lies not with the White House or in the outcome of the midterm elections, but with the courts.

Just Wednesday, a federal appeals court ruling left in limbo the fate of more than 600,000 immigrants known as "dreamers" who came to the U.S. as children. Biden said he would do everything to help them but cautioned it wasn't all up to him.

"While we will use the tools we have to allow dreamers to live and work in the only country they know as home, it is long past time for Congress to pass permanent protections for dreamers, including a pathway to citizenship," Biden said in a statement.

The political backdrop to all these challenges is stark. One in 3 U.S. adults believe an effort is underway to replace native-born Americans with immigrants for electoral gains, according to an AP-NORC study.

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"Only if we work together we can overcome the challenges of inequality and discrimination"



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Immigration will vex Biden no matter who controls Congress

Continued from Front

Republicans running for Congress are using midterm campaign ads to warn of a coming "invasion." Some GOP leaders have taken to busing or flying border crossers to Democratic-led areas as a political play to raise awareness of what they claim is ongoing mayhem at the border.

Democrats, for their part, say they want to create a pathway to citizenship for hundreds of thousands of immigrants who came here as children, and they want policies that reflect the U.S. role as a haven for those fleeing persecution. But they can't agree on what that should look like.

And all the while, economists say the country needs more workers, not less, to meet its labor needs.

Biden, who inherited a hardened system oriented by Donald Trump toward keeping immigrants out, has undone many of Trump's most contentious policies. He's worked to speed up the handling of asylum cases and boost the number of refugees allowed into the U.S.

And despite record numbers of arrivals in recent months and all of those overheated campaign aids, border stations right now are largely free of the chaotic scenes that in past years sparked outrage — migrants huddling under a bridge or small children packed behind fences.

Congress has repeatedly tried — and failed — to improve the nation's tattered immigration system, chasing various proposals through the House and Senate only to see them collapse, often spectacularly.

Despite the latest court ruling on dreamers, it's doubtful Congress will be able to pass any substantive legislation to protect a new generation of immigrants the way the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program provided a route to legal status a decade ago in the Obama administration.

House Speaker Nancy



People rally outside the Capitol in support of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), during a demonstration on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Oct. 6, 2022.

Associated Press

Pelosi pointed to the most recent bills that have been approved by the Democratic-run House, but languished in the Senate, where Republicans are able to filibuster to block bills in the evenly split chamber.

"House Democrats have twice passed the Dream and Promise Act: to finally offer Dreamers a permanent pathway to citizenship," Pelosi said in a statement. "Senate Republicans must join us to immediately pass this urgent, necessary, House-passed legislation and send it straight to President Biden's desk."

With action in Congress unlikely, the president is going to have to find ways to innovate if he wants to improve on the status quo, advocates say.

Thomas Saenz, president and general counsel of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, acknowledged the "very real and undeniable challenges" Biden is facing, particularly as migrants arrive in record numbers. But he says the administration is falling short in meeting the moment.

"I have found this administration, particularly the White House, to be not creative nor open to creative approaches to provide relief," he said, talking about migration issues that extend beyond the border.

Debate about the DACA program has dragged on so long that many of those children are now in their mid-30s with children of their own who are U.S. citizens. And the limbo continues after Wednesday's court ruling.

If the program is ultimately ended by the courts, Biden is weighing possible executive action to provide some safeguards to the dreamers, according to administration officials familiar with the plan who spoke to AP on condition of anonymity to discuss preparations.

The Trump administration claimed DACA was denying jobs to Americans by allowing migrants to supplant them. That idea has been disproven by economists and isn't shared by a majority of Americans. Two-thirds feel the country's diverse population makes the U.S. stronger, and far more favor than oppose a path to legal status for the DACA recipients, according to AP-NORC.

But the deep anxieties expressed by some Americans help to explain how the issue energizes those opposed to immigration. And the idea of disarray at the U.S.-Mexico border also animates those on both sides of the debate.

Even as officials encounter more migrants than ever at the border, there's a lull right now in the type of

shocking turmoil that has defined the past few years. U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials say changes to their processing system deserve at least part of the credit for increased efficiency and improved communication with Mexican officials on when and where migrants are coming.

"There is a lot of really thoughtful, detailed and careful work that's being done to manage this flow," said Commissioner Chris Magnus. He said migrants are vetted and screened rigorously, and careful steps are taken to make sure they are going into proper immigration pathways.

Critics, including some Democrats, say the administration is letting too many people into the country and should be either deporting or detaining more. "If you don't deport people, they will see the border as a speed bump," Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Texas, told Fox News. "We have to deport people who aren't supposed to be here."

Overall, migrants have been expelled 1.8 million times since the beginning of the pandemic under an emergency health authority known as Title 42, which allowed the government to immediately deport asylum seekers as long as their countries were considered

safe. Although Biden in late March agreed to end the program, it has continued for now under a court order.

Sergio Gonzales, executive director of the Immigration Hub, a nonprofit that advocates for immigration reform, said whether the rule ultimately stands or falls, migrants will continue coming to the border because they're living in impoverished, dangerous countries and making a calculus that staying is worse than the journey, "even though there is a danger in that too."

The U.S. is still trying to atone for the Trump-era family separations in which as many as 5,500 children were taken from their parents. So far, only about 600 families have been brought back together, in part because of considerable roadblocks thrown up under Trump.

Lee Gelernt, the American Civil Liberties Union lawyer who sued over the separations and is managing the reunifications, said that while the Biden administration has been "constructively working" to reunite families, he worries that the separations — international news when they happened — have been largely forgotten. "The truth is, there are still hundreds of little children who are not back with their parents." □

Whistleblower: 665 left FBI over misconduct in two decades

By ERIC TUCKER and JIM MUSTIAN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A U.S. senator is pressing the FBI for more information after a whistleblower alleged that an internal review found 665 FBI personnel have resigned or retired to avoid accountability in misconduct probes over the past two decades.

The whistleblower told the office of Iowa Sen. Chuck Grassley, the top Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee, that the Justice Department launched the review of the FBI's disciplinary database in 2020 following an Associated Press investigation into sexual misconduct allegations involving at least six senior FBI officials.

The follow-up review found 665 FBI employees, including 45 senior-level officials, resigned or retired between 2004 and 2020 following a misconduct probe but before a final disciplinary letter could be issued, according to a letter this week from Grassley to FBI Director Christopher Wray and Attorney General Merrick Garland.

It was not clear how many



FBI Director Christopher Wray speaks during a news conference on Aug. 10, 2022, in Omaha, Neb. Associated Press

of those cases involved sexual misconduct. Grassley's office, which declined to make the whistleblower or underlying documents available to protect the person's identity, said in its letter it was still seeking that information but also characterized that number as possibly being in the "hundreds."

"It's been alleged to my office that the data involved an element of sexual mis-

conduct, which comports with the purpose of the ... review that was done because of the Associated Press article," Grassley wrote in his letter that was first shared with the AP. "The committee welcomes any clarity the Justice Department is able to provide." Asked for its response, the FBI told AP it intended to respond to the oversight committee first.

It declined to comment

specifically on the whistleblower's allegation or to provide its own tally of disciplinary cases and how many of them involved sexual misconduct.

It instead issued a statement saying it has a zero-tolerance policy toward sexual harassment. "The FBI looks critically at ourselves and will continue to make improvements. The bottom line is, employees who commit gross misconduct

and sexual harassment have no place in the FBI," it said.

The AP investigation in December 2020 identified at least six sexual misconduct allegations involving senior FBI officials over the prior five years ranging from unwanted touching and advances to coercion.

It found that several senior FBI officials have avoided discipline quietly transferring or retiring with full benefits even after claims of sexual misconduct against them were substantiated. In one case, an FBI assistant director retired after the inspector general's office concluded that he had harassed a female subordinate and sought an improper relationship with her.

In its statement, the FBI said that since establishing a working group just days after the AP story was published, the bureau has implemented a series of changes, including a 24/7 tip line with a licensed clinician where employees can report abuse, and a working group of senior executives to review policies and procedures on harassment and victim support. □

At least 66 U.S. clinics have halted abortions, institute says

By The Associated Press

At least 66 clinics in 15 states have stopped providing abortions since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, according to an analysis re-

leased Thursday.

The number of clinics providing abortions in the 15 states dropped from 79 before the June 24 decision to 13 as of Oct. 2, according to the Guttm-

acher Institute, a research group that supports abortion rights.

All 13 of the remaining clinics are in Georgia. The other states have no providers offering abortions, though some of their clinics are offering care other than abortions.

Nationally, there were more than 800 abortion clinics in 2020, the institute said. "Much more research will need to be conducted to grasp the full extent of the chaos, confusion and harm that the U.S. Supreme Court has unleashed on people needing abortions, but the picture that is starting to emerge should alarm anyone who supports reproductive freedom and the right to bodily autonomy,"

said Rachel Jones, a Guttmacher researcher.

The new report does not include data on hospitals and physician offices that provided abortion and stopped them after the court ruling, but Jones noted that clinics provide most U.S. abortions, including procedures and dispensing abortion medication. Recent Guttmacher data show just over half of U.S. abortions are done with medication.

States without abortion providers are concentrated in the South. In some of those places, many women seeking abortions would need to travel so far that the journey will be impossible, Jones said.

Dr. Jeanne Corwin, who provides abortions in Indi-

ana and Ohio, said clinic closures "will result in immeasurable harm to women's physical health, mental health and financial health."

In several states, access is under threat because bans were put on hold only temporarily by court injunctions. These include Indiana, Ohio and South Carolina, the analysis found.

"It is precarious from a medical standpoint and certainly from a business standpoint," said Dr. Katie McHugh, an OB-GYN who provides abortions in Indiana. "It's difficult to keep the doors open and the lights on when you don't know if you're going to be a felon tomorrow." □



The recently closed Savannah Medical Clinic, which provided abortions for four decades in Savannah, Ga., is pictured on Thursday, July 21, 2022.

Associated Press

Federal judge halts key parts of New York's new gun law

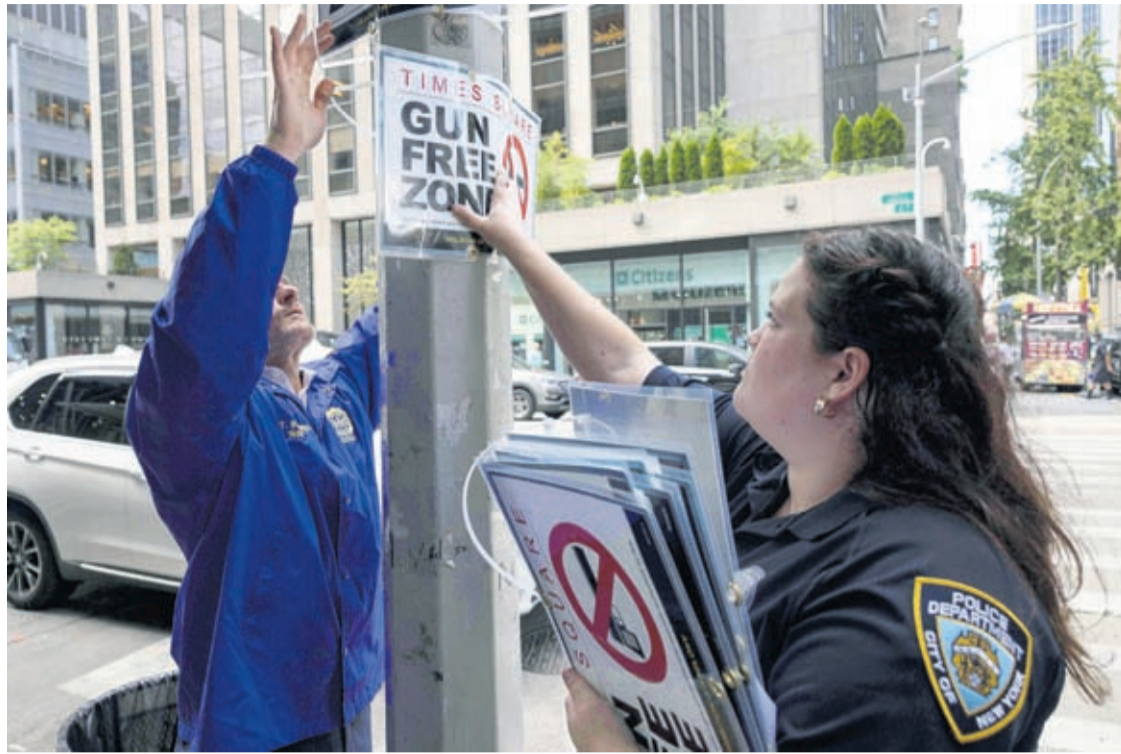
By **MICHAEL HILL**

Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — New York's latest attempt to restrict who can carry a handgun in public and where firearms can be brought was picked apart Thursday by a federal judge, who ruled that multiple provisions in a state law passed this year are unconstitutional.

In a ruling that doesn't take effect immediately, U.S. District Judge Glenn Suddaby struck down key elements of the state's hurried attempt to rewrite its handgun laws after the old ones were struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court in June.

The state can't ban people from carrying guns in New York City's subway system or Times Square, the judge ruled, though he said it did have a right to exclude guns from certain other locations, including schools. Several of the state's new licensing rules went too far, he wrote, including one that required applicants to be of "good moral character," and another that made applicants turn over information about their social media accounts. The end result was a licensing scheme that prohibited people from carrying a handgun for self-defense unless the applicant could



New York CITY Police Department Public Affairs officers set up signs reading "Gun Free Zone" around Times Square, Aug. 31, 2022, in New York.

Associated Press

persuade licensing officials that they wouldn't use it to hurt themselves or others, the judge wrote.

"Simply stated, instead of moving toward becoming a shall-issue jurisdiction, New York State has further entrenched itself as a shall-not-issue jurisdiction. And, by doing so, it has further reduced a first-class constitutional right to bear arms in public for self defense ... into a mere request," wrote Suddaby, who sits in Syracuse.

Suddaby, an appointee of former President George

W. Bush, put his decision on hold for three days to allow the state to challenge it in a higher court.

New York Attorney General Letitia James said her office would appeal.

"Today's decision comes in the wake of mass shootings and rampant gun violence hurting communities here in New York and across the country. While the decision preserves portions of the law, we believe the entire law must be preserved as enacted," said James, a Democrat.

Legislators rewrote the

state's handgun laws this summer after a Supreme Court ruling invalidated New York's old system for granting permits to carry handguns outside the home. The high court struck down the state's longstanding requirement that people demonstrate an unusual threat to their safety to qualify for such a license.

The new law, which went into effect Sept. 1, broadly expanded who could get a handgun license, but it increased training requirements for applicants and

required them to turn over more private information, including a list of everyone living in their home. The state also created a long list of places where firearms would be banned.

Suddaby's ruling upheld the state's right to exclude guns from certain "sensitive locations," but only in instances where there were "historical analogues" for such rules, meaning guns have been banned from such places in the past.

Rules prohibiting most people from carrying guns into schools, government buildings, polling places and places of worship were OK, the judge wrote. But the state couldn't put new bans on people from carrying handguns on public transportation systems, in summer camps or places where alcohol is consumed.

Suddaby also dealt a blow to a provision prohibiting people from bringing guns onto someone else's property unless the owners give permission by posting a sign in a shop window, for instance.

"While this decision leaves aspects of the law in place, it is deeply disappointing that the Judge wants to limit my ability to keep New Yorkers safe and to prevent more senseless gun violence," Hochul said. □

Florida drop tower will be taken down after teenager's death



Family and supporters of Tyre Sampson march and hold signs outside the Orlando Free Fall drop tower ride at ICON Park in Orlando on March 29, 2022.

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — A towering amusement ride in central Florida's tourism district where a Missouri teen fell to his death will be taken down because of the accident, the owner said Thursday.

The decision to remove the more than 400-foot (122-meter) ride which opened last December in Orlando's International Drive district was directly linked to the death of 14-year-old Tyre Sampson last March, the owner, Orlando Slingshot, said in a statement. Sampson, who lived near St. Louis, Missouri, was visiting Orlando during

spring break when he died from the fall. The company also said it planned to create a scholarship in the teenager's name.

"We are devastated by Tyre's death. We have listened to the wishes of Tyre's family and the community, and have made the decision to take down the FreeFall," said Ritchie Armstrong, an official with Orlando Slingshot.

An autopsy showed that Tyre Sampson suffered numerous broken bones and internal injuries in the fall, which was ruled an accidental death.

It showed Sampson

weighed 383 pounds (173 kilograms), well above the ride manual's weight limit of 287 pounds (130 kilograms).

An initial report by outside engineers hired by the Florida Department of Agriculture said sensors on the ride had been adjusted manually to double the size of the opening for restraints on two seats, resulting in the teen not being properly secured.

The report said there were many other "potential contributions" to the accident and that a full review of the ride's design and operations was needed. □

Russia seeks secret UN vote on condemning Ukraine annexation

By EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

Russia called for a secret ballot vote next week on a Western-backed resolution that would condemn its "attempted illegal annexation" of part of four Ukrainian regions and demand that Moscow immediately reverse its actions.

Russia apparently hopes it would get more support from the 193 nations in the General Assembly if their votes are not public.

Russia vetoed what would have been a legally binding Security Council resolution on Sept. 30 to condemn annexation referendums in the four Ukrainian regions as illegal, declare them invalid and urge all countries not to recognize any annexation of the territory claimed by Moscow.

The United States and Albania, which sponsored the resolution, vowed to take the issue to all U.N. members in the General Assembly, where there are no vetoes but resolutions are not legally binding.

"Unless the international community reacts," European Union U.N. Ambassador Olof Skoog said Wednesday, "there can be claims that no one pays



Russian Ambassador to the United Nations Vasily Nebenzya raises his hand against a U.N. Security Council vote on a draft resolution sanctioning Russia's planned annexation of war-occupied Ukraine territory, Friday Sept. 30, 2022 at U.N. headquarters.

attention and this is now a carte blanche for other countries to do likewise or to give recognition to what Russia's done."

The General Assembly has announced that its emergency special session on Ukraine will resume on Monday afternoon, when the draft resolution will be presented.

Diplomats said they expect speeches from member nations to continue Tues-

day, with a vote on the resolution likely on Wednesday.

Votes on resolutions in the world body are traditionally public and are illuminated with different colored lights on a large board which has the name of every country. But Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vassily Nebenzya said in a six-page letter to all other U.N. ambassadors obtained by The Associated Press that the U.N. legal

counsel has confirmed that a secret ballot can be used by the General Assembly "in decision-making."

In addition to demanding that Russia reverse its annexation of Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia, the draft resolution would declare that Moscow's actions violate Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity and are "inconsistent" with the principles of

the U.N. Charter.

The proposed resolution says the annexations also "have no validity under international law and do not form the basis for any alteration of the status of these regions of Ukraine."

It demands that Russia "immediately, completely and unconditionally withdraw all of its military forces from the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders ... to enable peaceful resolution of the conflict ... through political dialogue, negotiations, mediation and other peaceful means."

Russia's veto in the Security Council last Friday came hours after a lavish Kremlin ceremony where President Vladimir Putin signed treaties to annex the Russian-occupied Ukrainian regions, saying they were now part of Russia and would be defended by Moscow. Putin signed the final papers Wednesday to annex the four regions and in a defiant move, his spokesman Dmitry Peskov held the door open for further land grabs in Ukraine, saying "certain territories will be reclaimed, and we will keep consulting residents who would be eager to embrace Russia." □

Associated Press

Dutch court orders government to improve migrant centers

By MIKE CORDER

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

(AP) — A Dutch court on Thursday ordered the government and its asylum-seeker accommodation agency to significantly improve conditions at overcrowded and unsanitary emergency migrant housing facilities.

The ruling by a civil court in The Hague came in a summary case brought by the Dutch Council for Refugees amid an ongoing crisis in the Netherlands that has forced hundreds of migrants to sleep outdoors in squalid conditions while waiting to register their asylum claims.

"The state ... has the obligation to accommodate

asylum-seekers in a dignified manner," the court said in a statement. It ruled that current conditions in a reception center in the northern Netherlands and

other emergency accommodation doesn't meet basic European standards. The council's chairman, Frank Candel, welcomed the decision.



A man sits outside the gate of an overcrowded asylum seekers center where hundreds of migrants seek shelter in Ter Apel, northern Netherlands, Thursday, Aug. 25, 2022.

Associated Press

"This is a crystal clear and necessary ruling, but this is not yet a cause for joy," he said. "It is sad that something as basic as humane reception conditions require a court decision, and we will not rest as long as asylum-seekers have to sleep in a tent, gym or event hall."

Candel said the group brought the case "with a heavy heart" because some 18,000 asylum-seekers are currently in Dutch accommodation centers in what he called "harmful conditions." He said the crisis wasn't the result of a sudden increase in the number of asylum applications, but of years of policy failure. Conditions outside a center in the northern town of Ter

Apel became so bad over the summer, with about 700 people forced to sleep outdoors, that the Dutch branch of Doctors Without Borders sent a team there, the first time the aid agency had deployed in the Netherlands.

The minister in charge of the asylum system, Eric van der Burg, said in a statement that he shared the concerns raised by the Refugee Council.

"At the moment, we are not offering asylum-seekers what we could in previous years," he added.

He said that the government was appealing to all Dutch municipalities to help accommodate underage asylum-seekers as soon as possible. □

Argentine judge launches probe into Nicaragua abuse claims

By **ALMUDENA CALATRAVA**
Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — A judge in Argentina has launched a criminal investigation into Nicaragua's President Daniel Ortega and Vice President Rosario María Murillo to determine whether they are responsible for crimes against humanity.

Federal Judge Ariel Lijo launched the investigation Wednesday at the behest of prosecutor Eduardo Taiano after two lawyers filed a criminal complaint against Nicaragua's leaders. Taiano has said Argentina's judiciary is within its rights to investigate human rights violations that took place in another country because Argentina's Constitution recognizes the principle of universal jurisdiction.

As the first measure, Lijo sent a request for information to the Nicaraguan judiciary demanding details on whether there are any open cases related to alleged illegal detentions and the disappearance of people, a judicial official with knowledge of the case told the Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the investigation is still in a preliminary stage. This is not the first time Ar-



Nicaragua's President Daniel Ortega and his wife and Vice President Rosario Murillo, lead a rally in Managua, Nicaragua, Sept. 5, 2018.

gentina's judiciary has investigated allegations of human rights abuses in another country using the principle of universal jurisdiction. A court in Argentina launched an investigation in 2010 into allegations of human rights abuses during the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939) as well as during Francisco Franco's regime and the two years between the dictator's death in 1975 and the first democratic

elections. More recently, a court in Argentina gave the green light in 2021 to an investigation into claims of human rights violations against the largely Muslim Rohingya population in Myanmar.

In his request for the investigation to be opened, Taiano specifically targeted Ortega and his wife, who is also the country's vice president, as well as "those who within the state or

semi-official structures" can be responsible for dictating executions and persecutions "on political and/or religious grounds."

Ortega's government has intensified the persecution of its political adversaries and uses the courts to accuse their family members of criminal activity, according to human rights organizations.

Tens of thousands of Nicaraguans have fled the

country as a result of the persecution that followed the massive protests of April 2018 that led to people being detained and receiving long prison sentences.

Argentina's judicial action is in response to a complaint filed by two lawyers, Darío Richarte and Diego Pirota, based on a news story regarding the detention of Rolando Álvarez, the bishop of Matagalpa who is under house arrest.

The complaint pointed out that the situation of the bishop's detention takes place within the context of a systematic attack against the civilian population and mentions investigations pointing to abuses by Ortega's government. The investigations were carried out by the Inter American Commission of Human Rights, the U.N. Human Rights Council, Amnesty International, the Center for Legal and Social Studies and the Nicaraguan Center for Human Rights.

Taiano has said Argentina's judiciary can launch the investigation into Nicaragua's government due to international commitments that "establish the duty of domestic tribunals to investigate in the name of the international community." □

Associated Press

New S. Korea gov't seeks to abolish gender equality ministry

By **HYUNG-JIN KIM**
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— South Korea's new conservative government said Thursday it will push to abolish a gender equality ministry and create a new agency with broader re-

sponsibilities, one of President Yoon Suk Yeol's campaign promises that roiled March's hotly contested election. During the campaign, Yoon faced criticism that his vow to scrap the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family was an appeal

to young male voters who oppose gender equality policies in a highly competitive job market. Yoon said it was time to launch an agency with a more comprehensive role, saying women in South Korea no longer face structural barriers to success.

Prospects for his government's plan to scrap the ministry are unclear because it requires approval from the National Assembly, which is controlled by liberal lawmakers. A women's committee in the main liberal opposition Democratic Party has vowed to thwart the plan, saying women continue to face systemic discrimination.

Interior and Safety Minister Lee Sang-min told a

televised briefing Thursday that government policies for women must be about equal rights for both men and women, unlike the current approach that focuses on resolving inequalities facing women.

Lee credited the gender equality ministry for efforts to address discrimination against women. But he said the ministry is limited in its ability to handle broader urgent issues including gender and generational conflicts, a shrinking population and social problems for the elderly. Lee said the ministry's duties would be shifted to the Ministry of Health and Welfare and the Ministry of Employment and Labor. He said the government wants to establish a new agency

in charge of population, family and gender equality issues under the Ministry of Health and Welfare.

Lee said he has informed the Democratic Party of the restructuring plans and that opposition party officials expressed concerns that they would scale back the current role of the gender equality ministry. Lee said under the planned reorganization, the roles and tasks assigned to the ministry would be conducted more effectively.

Lee Soo Jin, a spokesperson for the Democratic Party, expressed regret over what she called the government's failure to address concerns raised by her party regarding the restructuring plans. □



The sign for the ministry of Gender Equality and Family is seen at the government complex in Seoul, Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2022.

Associated Press

Positive meeting with AH&SF regarding police presence in the hotel area



ORANJESTAD – Wednesday morning, the minister of Justice and Social Affairs, Mr. Rocco Tjon held a meeting with the board of directors of Aruba Hospitality & Security Foundation (AH&SF) regarding different projects for the hotel area, specifically, the new project “Tourism Patrol” to expand vigilance in the hotel area.

Aside from this, a few points of concern from the past were brought forward by AH&SF. However, the minister explained how these concerns were taken into account in order to not repeat the problem in the future, and also how this was taken into account specifically in the project of security cameras. For

this reason, processes were restructured in order to fix and prevent these problems in the futuro. Currently, there is a commission dedicated exclusively to this.

Regarding the Tourism Patrol, this will be done together with the judicial department, which will be in charge of doing the background check for the personnel in charge of executing these tasks. At the same time, they will receive

various trainings regarding predictive profiling, as well as follow the course of Aruba Certification Program. This way, the intention is to give this personnel training so that they can become “bijzonder opsporing ambtenaar”, special investigation officers.

The goal is to have continuous vigilance in the hotel area, with different shifts of patrol on foot, on bicycle and on vehicles. This proj-

ect will cover the area from Arashi until Bushiri.

According to the minister, this is a project with a positive impact for Aruba and for tourism, to guarantee even more the security of our people. Agreements were made to meet in November, in order to expand more on this project and come up with concrete plans on how to realize this in 2023. □



Streets filled with water after heavy rain



ORANJESTAD – As was forecast, early Thursday heavy rains and dark clouds took over the usually sunny skies of Aruba. This caused some streets and some areas to fill with water, however, damage was minimal.

According to Aruba Weather Watch, during the next couple of days, atmospheric conditions will become more favorable for significant clouds to spread over our region, due to an active tropical wave approaching our area. These clouds are expected to generate moderate to heavy thundershowers over our island. Gusty winds are expected during heavier showers and also localized flooding due to heavy showers. For this reason, a code yellow is in effect for severe thunderstorms and rough seas. □





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LEHO, A friendly Halloo from Taiwan

First muralist from the Eastern world that will visit Aruba

SANNICOLAS/ARTFAIR2022: The word is out, Aruba is becoming the Art Centrum to be in, where all renowned muralists want to exhibit their art pieces. Most of the International muralists that visited our Island has always been primarily from Europe, Latin and Central America, The Balkans, but never have we been blessed by artists from the Eastern World. Aruba, gathered the finest muralists from most part of the world and made the streets of San Nicolas in a want to see and want to be in, urban revolving out door Gallery.

ArtisA, the holding of all that happens with the murals and Aruba Art Fair is evolving, thinking in global happenings such as extinction of the species, has caught the attention of the young upcoming artist and muralist LE HO from Taiwan, the Republic of China. The subject matter of Le Ho's mural works, center around animals being the carriers of information, depicting human emotions, stories and beliefs. These creatures enable their au-

dience to read into the values and vibes through their various forms.

"Dream & Longings is the visions I describe in my art, wishing it would cast light on even the most hopeless folks. Although throughout our world frustration exists, I want to make people brighter when they see art." Taiwanese citizens in a number of noted villages have turned street art to entice tourists and younger generations back to the rural village life, in hope to liven up places that have been abandoned due to urbanization, attracting the youth to work and study in major city districts, such as Le Ho.

After years of searching, exploration and participation in the realm of public art, Le Ho's creature creations have become a unique symbol of vitality, around the world. He has participated in the International Warriors Street Art Festival for three consecutive sessions, since 2017.

Aruba is excited to receive Le Ho from Taiwan, such a marvelous young artist, that travels almost half around

the world for 24 hours to be in the sun and savor our blue waters and white sand.

Aruba Art Fair is back, with amongst them sublime artists, such as Wild Drawing WD street artist, from Bali, Indonesia. Stathis Tsavalias, better known as Insane 51, from Athens, Greece, who is renowned for his outstanding anaglyphic art on mural canvasses.

Chemis, Czech Republic, recurrent invited muralist that not only proposed to be wed, on this lovely Island, but had most of the Aruba Art Fair gang presented at the wedding as well, will be back now for 5 years in a row.

Mr. Dheo, from Portugal, creating and reflecting a piece of Aruba's history on a gigantic mural, depicting colors and vivid dancers in the sun.

Jenna Schwartz, first time in Aruba, is the sweetest rebel street artist from Canada, she explores the human sentiment and promotes the celebration of people and diversity that can transform a community through public murals.

Art Fair 2022, November 4,5,6, 2022, will be an explosion of Arts where more than 150 local and international artists will expose their arts, and more than 15 International Artists will leave their artistic mark on Aruba's largest murals in the long NOT forgotten sunrise city San Nicolas, the Art Capital of the Caribbean, named by Forbes.

ArtisA in partnership with Aruba Tourism Authority Sui Generis invites you to follow us via www.Artfairaruba.com or visit us at ArtisA Gallery in San Nicolas. □



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The Ostrich Farm

Matividiri – One of the most entertaining vacation activities is a visit to the Ostrich Farm, a popular stopover on most island jeep tours.

Locals and visitors enjoy the guided ostrich tour at the farm and features a well-stocked locally crafted and produced Art Boutique. The highlight of the visit is always the fun interaction with the resident ostriches and emus, including a trip to the incubators and the bird kindergarten, housing baby ostriches, baby emus, chicken and ducks, and



even a land turtle!

It was a National Geographic moment when on cue Mr. Ostrich flapped his wings excitedly and poked around the ground with his bill, triggering Mrs. Ostrich who ran around in circles, flapped her wings and also poked around, before collapsing on the ground in a heap of feathers, allowing him to mount her, shaking, winding and spiraling his head in all direction!

Mr. Ostrich concluded his unexpected performance with a loud honking, his eyes rolling, then got up in a huff to nonchalantly strut away, leaving his wife and the scrutiny of our cameras.

It was a surprise reality TV moment, and not usually included in the regular program. Feeding the Ostriches is however always on the program, and they are eternally hungry, and fun!

Tours are available daily every half hour from 10– 3pm. No reservations needed for small groups.

Matividiri 57, Open daily from 10:00 AM till 4:00 PM
Telephone: 5859630
For more information go to the website: www.arubaostrichfarm.com



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ISLAND GRILL • BEACH BAR

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Tel.: 587-2667
Website: www.thewestdeck.com

La Cabana hosts FUN-Tastic Family Day at Aruba Waterpark

Eagle beach. – As part of a long-held tradition, interrupted for two years by the pandemic, La Cabana Beach Resort & Casino celebrated Family Day at the Aruba Waterpark, where the resort associates and their family members enjoyed the adrenaline pumping slides, water fountains, delicious food and great entertainment.

The occasion also served to celebrate four exemplary leaders who care for the resort, its external and internal colleagues; much-appreciated leaders who are loyal to the company, and who regularly contribute their talents to the organization, redefining passion and determination.

Leadership nominees included Karelis Charris, Front Office, and Manuel



Castro, Food & Beverage, both nominees for Leader of the 2nd Quarter; Yseline "Aichel" Lynch, Activities, and Dave van der Veen, Loss Prevention, both nominees for Leader of the 3rd Quarter

It was a close call, but the two ultimate winners selected were Manuel Castro, for the 2nd quarter and Yseline "Aichel" Lynch, for the 3rd. Congratulations to all nominees and winners.

Keep on doing what you do. With your tireless efforts the resort continues to provide guests with happy and memorable vacations, in an environment where they feel appreciated, safe and always welcome. □



Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back or still enjoying your vacation?... we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to:

news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive?

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Aruban minister of Education met with Secretary General of Dutch ministry of Education

ORANJESTAD – At the end of September, the University of Aruba organized the work conference related to “Studiesuccess”. During the four country consultation that took in March in the Netherlands between the ministers of Education of the Netherlands, Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten, the topic of Studiesuccess was discussed.

At that time, Aruba chose to make itself available as host of the conference on this topic at the end of the September 2022. The University of Aruba, through among others Prof. Rector Viola Heutger and a commission was in charge of organizing this project, in which Nicole Spellén and Ron Borhmans had an important role. In the context of this work conference, the delega-



tions of Sint Maarten, Curaçao, Saba, Sint Eustatius and Bonaire came to Aruba. The Netherlands was also present with a delegation consisting of, among others, Hogeschool Rotterdam and Hoogeschool Amsterdam, and representatives of the Ministry of Education including the Secretary General of Education, drs. Marjan Hammersma.

Aruban minister of Education and Sport, Endy Croes met separately at his bureau with Hammersma, who was accompanied by Aldrik in't Hout. In a press release, the minister said it was a good meeting in general. He received various questions regarding the Doorlichting rapport – vetting report – and he provided a wide explanation of

the plan of approach that the Bureau of Education is working with.

At the same time, minister Croes exchanged ideas with Hammersma and explained in detail the challenges that Aruba is facing. Something that the minister highlighted was the position of CAft – the College of Financial Supervision – regarding the general budget, which according to the minister is an obstacle in the development of education. He explained the Secretary General that the government of Aruba, through a diligent policy of the Wever-Croes II Cabinet, and the minister of Finance, Xiomara Maduro were able to reduce the deficit caused by the Covid-19 pandemic from 1028 million florin in 2020 to 25 million in 2023, however, he

said that according to CAft this is not good enough, as CAft is demanding to make cuts in education.

The minister said he is opposed to the advice of CAft. At the same time, no country in the world is making cuts in education, particularly after Covid-19.

The minister said that for the rest, Aruba is making its utmost effort to comply with all recommendations of the vetting report and making great advances with little funds available.

Hammersma at the end of the meeting gifted minister Croes two books, the Antilliaanse erfgoed volume 1 Toen en Nu, and the volume 2 Nu en Verder, which contain a lot of information. The minister was very thankful for this detail. □

During General Assembly of OAS, prime minister of Aruba emphasized “Only if we work together we can overcome the challenges of inequality and discrimination”

ORANJESTAD – This week in Lima, Peru is taking place General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS). The theme for this assembly is **Together Against Inequality and Discrimination**. Prime Minister of Aruba, Evelyn Wever-Croes is representing the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

At the start of the program, Wever-Croes gave a speech in which she emphasized the importance of maintaining dialogues like the assembly to reinforce bonds between the member countries and participants. Unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic drastically worsened inequality already existing not only on our continent but all around the world. Inequality is not a self-arising phenomenon; it is closely linked to a variety of global challenges, including climate change

and food insecurity. And only if we work together we can fight the difficult challenges of inequality.

The prime minister indicated that the Kingdom of the Netherlands continues showing a solid commitment with the efforts of OAS to reinforce democracy. Also the Kingdom of the Netherlands reaffirms its solid commitment to support the work of OAS in promoting human rights, particularly giving attention to vulnerable groups.

“However, we are still witnessing vulnerable structures, among others the lack of social safety due to a high degree of informality; bad service in public health and education, and unfortunately, also a high degree of pressure on human rights, gender equality and the rule of law. All this, for the government of Aru-



ba and the Kingdom of the Netherlands is as a priority. Only together, maintaining honest and critical discussions can change these inequalities” the prime minister emphasized.

On the subject of Venezuela, the prime minister expressed that being a neighbor of Venezuela, Aruba and the Kingdom are concerned about the humanitarian crisis in Ven-

ezuela that is affecting various countries, including countries of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in the Caribbean. “We urge all those involved to work together in favor of a stable, fair and democratic transition”, she said.

The prime minister ended her speech emphasizing that the Kingdom of the Netherlands, despite all challenges is not losing

hope. “All crises can lead to innovation and new perspectives to solve problems of inequality and discrimination. Confronting these challenges require investment in our people to build democratic societies that work together. The Kingdom of the Netherlands, in its quality of active observer and good neighbor, will continue as a partner of OAS in the future”, she expressed. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 38 Monument

1 Part Valley
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11 On that
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12 Action
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13 Studio
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14 Swell

15 Solution:
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16 Slalom
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18 Tina of
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19 Mermaid's
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35 Music
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4 Mine

5 Master
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6 Parson's
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Yesterday's answer

7 Onassis
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8 "West-
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9 Pay to
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10 Be

17 Moved
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23 Ump's
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24 Old hand

26 Goddess
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27 Humiliates

28 Phone
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30 Scottish
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33 Exodus
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39 Throw in

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35				36				37	
38			39			40	41		
42						43			
44						45			

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

10-7

CRYPTOQUOTE

S A L G L F S I R J S Q N W O F W L

A R N N B T L F F B F S Q A L K N

Q S A L O N L Q N K L T Q S A B T C

L K F L I B K K E R Z L J Q W A R N N B L O

— C L Q O C L K W X R F

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: IF I ASKED FOR A CUP OF COFFEE, SOMEONE WOULD SEARCH FOR THE DOUBLE MEANING. — MAE WEST

EXPLAINER: How will OPEC+ cuts affect oil prices, inflation?

By DAVID McHUGH
AP Business Writer
FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)

— Major oil-producing countries led by Saudi Arabia and Russia have decided to slash the amount of oil they deliver to the global economy.

And the law of supply and demand suggests that can only mean one thing: higher prices are on the way for crude, and for the diesel fuel, gasoline and heating oil that are produced from oil.

The decision by the OPEC+ alliance to cut 2 million barrels a day starting next month comes as the Western allies are trying to cap the oil money flowing into Moscow's war chest after it invaded Ukraine.

Here is what to know about the OPEC+ decision and what it could mean for the economy and the oil price cap:

WHY IS OPEC+ CUTTING PRODUCTION?

Saudi Arabia's Energy Minister Abdulaziz bin Salman says that the alliance is being proactive in adjusting supply ahead of a possible downturn in demand because a slowing global economy needs less fuel for travel and industry.

"We are going through a period of diverse uncertainties which could come our way, it's a brewing cloud," he said, and OPEC+ sought to remain "ahead of the curve." He described the group's role as "a moderating force, to bring about stability."

Oil prices have fallen after a summer of highs. International benchmark Brent crude is down 24% from mid-June, when it traded at over \$123 per barrel. Now it's at \$93.50.

One big reason for the slide is fears that large parts of the global economy are slipping into recession as high energy prices for oil, natural gas and electricity drive inflation and rob consumers of spending power. Another reason: The summer highs came about be-



Gas prices are displayed at a gas station in Frankfurt, Germany, Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2022.

Associated Press

cause of fears that much of Russia's oil production would be lost to the market over the war in Ukraine.

As Western traders shunned Russian oil even without sanctions, customers in India and China bought those barrels at a steep discount, so the hit to supply wasn't as bad as expected.

Oil producers are wary of a sudden collapse in prices if the global economy goes downhill faster than expected. That's what happened during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and during the global financial crisis in 2008-2009.

HOW IS THE WEST TARGETING RUSSIAN OIL?

The U.S. and Britain imposed bans that were mostly symbolic because neither country imported much Russian oil. The White House held off pressing the European Union for an import ban because EU countries got a quarter of their oil from Russia.

In the end, the 27-nation bloc decided to cut off Russian oil that comes by ship on Dec. 5, while keeping a small amount of pipeline supplies that some Eastern European countries rely on. Beyond that, the U.S. and other Group of Seven major democracies are working out the details on a price cap on Russian oil. It would target insurers and other service providers that facilitate oil shipments from

Russia to other countries. The EU approved a measure along those lines this week.

Many of those providers are based in Europe and would be barred from dealing with Russian oil if the price is above the cap.

HOW WILL OIL CUTS, PRICE CAPS AND EMBARGOS CLASH?

The idea behind the price cap is to keep Russian oil flowing to the global market, just at lower prices. Russia, however, has threatened to simply stop deliveries to a country or companies that observe the cap. That could take more Russian oil off the market and push prices higher.

That could push costs at the pump higher, too. U.S. gasoline prices that soared to record highs of \$5.02 a gallon in mid-June had been falling recently, but they have been on the rise again, posing political problems for President Joe Biden a month before mid-term elections.

Biden, facing inflation at near 40-year highs, had touted the falling pump prices. Over the past week, the national average price for a gallon rose 9 cents, to \$3.87. That's 65 cents more than Americans were paying a year ago.

"It's a disappointment, and we're looking at what alternatives we may have," he told reporters about the OPEC+ decision. □

Twitter says it wants trial against Musk to proceed

NEW YORK (AP) — Twitter is asking a Delaware court to proceed with an upcoming trial against Elon Musk, saying the billionaire refuses to accept the “contractual obligations” of his April agreement to buy the social media company for \$44 billion.

Twitter attorneys sent a letter Thursday to the Delaware Chancery Court’s head judge, not long after Musk’s legal team asked her to call off the trial while he works on a renewed bid to buy the company.

Twitter disputed Musk’s claim that Twitter is refusing to accept the new bid, which Musk told the company about earlier this week after trying to terminate the deal over the summer.

Twitter has been seeking a court order to force the completion of the merger and said it intends to close the deal at the agreed-upon price, but described Musk’s move to delay the trial as “an invitation to further mischief and delay.”

THIS IS A BREAKING NEWS UPDATE. AP’s earlier story follows below.

Elon Musk’s lawyers said Thursday that Twitter is refusing to accept the Tesla billionaire’s renewed \$44 billion bid for the social media company and are asking a Delaware court to halt an upcoming trial.

Musk made a renewed offer to take over the social media platform earlier this week, hoping to end a protracted legal dispute that began when Musk tried to back out of the April deal and Twitter sued.

Representatives for Twitter did not immediately respond to messages for comment.

Twitter said earlier this week that it intends to close the deal at the agreed-upon price, but the two sides are still booked for an Oct. 17 trial in Delaware over Musk’s earlier attempts to terminate the deal. On Wednesday, the judge presiding over the case said she will continue to press on toward the



Traders gather around a post as Twitter shares resume trading on the floor at the New York Stock Exchange in New York, on Oct. 4, 2022.

Associated Press

trial because, at the time, neither side had formally moved to stop it.

Musk’s attorneys said the trial should be adjourned to leave more time for Musk to secure the financing. “Twitter will not take yes for an answer,” said the court filing signed by Musk attorney Edward Mitchell. “Astonishingly, they have insisted on proceeding with this litigation, recklessly putting the deal at risk and gambling with their stockholders’ interests.”

Since Twitter sued Musk to force him to complete

the purchase after he tried to back out four months ago, it is unlikely the San Francisco-based company whose shareholders have voted to approve the deal will walk away from the agreement.

Rather, it’s likely Twitter is seeking assurances from Musk’s side that this time he’s serious and won’t walk away again.

Eric Talley, a Columbia University law professor, tweeted Thursday that Twitter “is absolutely right not to take ‘yes’ for an answer, and everyone

knows why. (They tried that in April and it didn’t go so well).” He added that Twitter would, however, take a “certified bank transfer” from Musk. □



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Red Cross	582 2219

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Loretta Lynn's songs resonate anew amid abortion debate

By KRISTIN M. HALL

AP Entertainment Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) —

Loretta Lynn, the Grammy-winning country music icon who died Tuesday at 90, lived through and sang about decades of advancements for women's social movements, achievements now endangered.

A mother multiple times over by the end of her teens, she gave voice to those who had historically had little control over childbirth and their own sexuality. Some of her songs reflected the lives of many rural women and mothers, lamenting their invisible labor and the repressive and gendered roles that kept them tied to a singular identity. For some of those working in reproductive health care today in her home state of Kentucky, Lynn's music proves all too relevant. Lynn, who sang about birth control after Roe v. Wade became a landmark legal decision protecting abortion rights, died only months after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the 1973 case, creating a massive shift in reproductive rights across the country. In November, Kentucky voters will decide whether to eliminate the right to abortion in the state's constitution.



Loretta Lynn performs at the BBC Music Showcase during South By Southwest on March 17, 2016, in Austin, Texas.

Kate Collins, 34, was not of the generation who heard "The Pill" or "One's on the Way" when they first played on the radio, but Lynn's voice provided a soundtrack to her childhood. In addition to growing up in a home where classic country music was part of the lexicon, Collins grew up in a family that talked about abortion and birth control, which led her to start volunteering as an escort at a clinic in Kentucky. But it wasn't until high school that she began

to put together the context of what Lynn was singing about.

"She talks about being able to wear the clothes she wants," Collins, who now volunteers as a case manager on the Kentucky Health Justice Network's abortion resources hotline, said of 1975's "The Pill." "Because of my access to birth control, I could go out to bars with my friends and wear miniskirts. And that was not something I ever had to think twice about until the lyric finally hit me."

"The Pill," written by Lorene Allen, Don McHan and T.D. Bayless, was recorded prior to the Roe v. Wade decision, but Lynn held onto the song for years before she felt fans were ready to listen.

"When we released it, the people loved it. I mean the women loved it," she wrote in her 1976 autobiography, "A Coal Miner's Daughter." "But the men who run the radio stations were scared to death. It's like a challenge to the men's way of thinking."

Men in country music were singing about abortion, premarital sex and divorce in the '60s and '70s with little or no blowback, but it was rare that a woman could sing about wanting to enjoy sex with her husband without the consequences of an unplanned pregnancy, as Lynn did.

"It is, in fact, not about anything other than control of women and their pleasure, or anyone who can get pregnant and their pleasure," Collins said.

Lynn was frank about her experiences giving birth so young, being mentally unprepared and not physically ready. She wrote that she couldn't afford to stay overnight after the birth of her second child, so she went back home to wash diapers and draw water from the well 24 hours after delivery. She experienced miscarriages, nearly dying because she had no money to go to the doctor. And still she kept on getting pregnant, giving birth to six children.

She wrote that she couldn't even sign her own consent form to have a caesarean section because she was still a minor and her husband, Oliver Lynn — known as "Dolittle" or "Mooney" — was out on a logging job and unreachable. □

Associated Press

Jada Pinkett Smith has deal for 'no holds barred' memoir

NEW YORK (AP) — Jada Pinkett Smith has a lifetime of thoughts she'd like to set down.

The actor, singer, entrepreneur and co-host of the Facebook Watch show "Red Table Talk" has a deal for what Dey Street Books is calling an "honest and gripping memoir" that will cover her "complicated marriage to Will Smith," among other topics. The book is currently untitled and scheduled for next fall. "Jada Pinkett Smith chronicles lessons learned in the course of a difficult but riveting journey — a rollercoaster ride from the

depths of suicidal depression to the heights of personal rediscovery and the celebration of authentic feminine power," read Thursday's announcement by Dey Street, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

According to the announcement, Pinkett Smith will recount her "unconventional upbringing in Baltimore," her friendship with late rapper Tupac Shakur, her love story with Smith and her experiences with motherhood.

"In crisis at age 40, Jada recounts the excruciating choices she was forced to make to redefine her life in

every way," the publisher said.

Pinkett Smith, 51, is known for such films as "Collateral" and "The Matrix Reloaded," as well as being vocal about her battles with depression and the hair-loss disorder alopecia areata, the source of Chris Rock's infamous joke at this year's Academy Awards ceremony.

When the comedian likened her shaved head to Demi Moore's look in "G.I. Jane," Will Smith who published his own bestselling memoir last year stunned the world by striding from his front-row seat to the



Jada Pinkett Smith arrives appears at the premiere of "Bel-Air" in Santa Monica, Calif., on Feb. 9, 2022.

Associated Press

stage and slapping Rock. Pinkett Smith addressed the slap two months later, on an episode of "Red Table Talk," saying the incident had prompted thousands to reach out to her

with their own experiences with alopecia areata. She also said she hoped "these two intelligent, capable men have an opportunity to heal, talk this out, and reconcile." □

'It's not right': Players want more from NHL against racism

By JOHN WAWROW
AP Hockey Writer

For too long, Matt Dumba felt he was on his own dealing with racial taunts directed at him as a youngster growing up in Saskatchewan. It was no different for Dumba as an adult, one of just a handful of minority players in the National Hockey League. Even in a circle of his fellow players, the Minnesota defenseman was alone in dropping to one knee on a global stage to silently protest systemic racism.

Some two years since that iconic moment as the league resumed the pandemic-delayed playoffs in Edmonton, Alberta, Dumba has gained some perspective to know he has, in fact, not been alone.

"I'm the first one to say our generation, everything with the phones, social media, it's not an easy world to live in," Dumba told The Associated Press during a recent interview before shifting his gaze to the past.

"But back then, segregation and just how people of color were treated, it really gives you a different perspective on things, and just how much they did for us to even be in a position where we can make our impact felt in the present," he added. "It's all of us as a collective, everyone pulling on this rope to better the game."

Dumba is referring to not only his peers, including members of the Hockey Diversity Alliance he helped establish in the wake of George Floyd's death at the hands of Minneapolis police in 2020. The 28-year-old player with a Filipino mother and white father is also referring to those who endured many of the same taunts and confronted intolerance since hockey's earliest days.

He came to this realization while taking part in the filming of the 90-minute documentary titled "Black Ice," which is set to be released Friday. The movie ties the past to the present by first highlighting the inroads made and struggles



Minnesota Wild's Matt Dumba takes a knee during the national anthem flanked by Edmonton Oilers' Darnell Nurse, right, and Chicago Blackhawks' Malcolm Subban before an NHL hockey Stanley Cup playoff game in Edmonton, Alberta, Saturday, Aug. 1, 2020.

Associated Press

encountered by members of the Nova Scotia-based Coloured Hockey League. Established in the late 1800s and lasting until the 1930s, the league is credited for introducing the slap shot and allowing goalies to leave their feet to make saves but was nearly forgotten until being featured in a book of the same name that was published in 2004.

As for the present, the film documents first-hand experiences in revealing just how marred by hate hockey remains in affecting current players, from the NHL to 16-year-old goalie Mark Connors, the son of mixed-raced parents who faced racial slurs while competing in a tournament in Prince Edward Island in February. For Dumba, the reality he and others have faced hit home when watching the late Herb Carnegie break down in tears during a television interview in response to Toronto Maple Leafs founder Conn Smythe reportedly saying he'd pay anyone \$10,000 if they could turn Carnegie white in order to sign him.

"It's not right," Dumba said

of Smythe, whose name is on the trophy awarded to each season's playoff MVP. "People are seeing that. And people are also recognizing now that, really, in a different way, it's still happening, which is the saddest part of all."

The NHL is a sport wrangling with issues of diversity and inclusion, with Dumba among those saying the league has been slow to adapt and grow. After being turned down by the NHL for financing two years ago, he said, the HDA launched its own program this spring to bring hockey to under-served communities in Toronto, similar to what Skillz Hockey founder Kirk Brooks has done locally for the past 25 years.

"(The NHL) has been taking about diversity since '93, but they don't seem to know what to do with this," Brooks says in the film.

Added Dumba: "It just goes back to everything that's been done for a long, long time in the same fashion. You know, the old boys' club and them dictating who is and who isn't welcome. Yeah, I'm sick of it." Hockey as a whole has

been slow to diversify, though there have been recent signs of progress.

Five years ago, Kim Davis, a Black woman, was hired by the NHL to serve as a senior VP, and she has since helped established the league's executive inclusion council to focus on improving diversity.

The NHL is in the process of doing an internal race and gender report that is expected to be released soon. Richard Lapchick, director of the University of Central Florida's Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport, is then expected to turn it into a report card as he's done with other leagues.

Canadian national team forward Sarah Nurse doesn't need a report card to identify how hockey needs to diversify.

"If we want to see a shift in hockey culture, if we want to see hockey grow, the NHL really needs to take diversity, anti-racism and inclusion very, very seriously," said Nurse, who is Black and whose cousin, Darnell, is an NHL defenseman. "They need to be the leader."

Too often, she's watched

friends turn their children to play soccer or basketball, rather than hockey.

Expense is a reason, Nurse said, but so is the lack of role models for children of color. Nurse has emerged as one of those role models. This summer, the Olympic gold medalist posed alongside Anaheim Ducks forward Trevor Zegras in becoming the first woman to grace the cover of EA Sports NHL video game.

Dumba grew up idolizing Paul Kariya and Jarome Iginla, who are both of mixed-race descent. He recalled having dinner a few weeks ago with HDA colleague Nazem Kadri, a standout NHL forward and the son of Lebanese immigrants. A young boy of color walked by and stopped his parents to have pictures taken with the two.

"You can kind of get a little bit of a glimpse into the impact we're actually making. That's what makes it worth it," Dumba added. "I do believe that's why we're all doing this. It's for that next generation, so they feel that they do have a voice and feel like they're not alone." □

MLB velocity, shifts set records; average lowest since 1968

By **RONALD BLUM**
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Higher velocity and increased shifts led to the major league batting average dropping to .243, its lowest since 1968.

Defensive shifts and 100 mph pitches set records this season, contributing to the worrisome offensive decline Major League Baseball is trying to address.

When the average dropped this low more than a half-century ago, MLB lowered the pitcher's mound. Next year's rules changes announced last month include the first restriction on shifts, a decision made over the objection of the players' association.

"We've engaged in a process to develop rules that will bring back the best form of baseball," Commissioner Rob Manfred said at the time.

The major league average was .269 in 2006 but fell to .254 in 2016 and .245 during the pandemic-shortened 2020 season, then dropped by one point in each of the following years.

The only seasons with lower averages than this year were the record low of .237 in 1968 along with 1967 and



Minnesota Twins relief pitcher Jhoan Duran throws to the Chicago White Sox in the ninth inning of a baseball game Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2022, in Minneapolis. The Twins won 4-0.

Associated Press

the deal-ball era seasons of 1884, 1888 and 1908.

Defensive shifts on balls in play totaled 66,961 this season, Sports Info Solutions said Monday, up from 59,063 last year and 2,349 in 2011. The major league-best Dodgers led this year with 2,912 shifts and NL Central champion Cleveland had the fewest at 1,600.

Batting average for left-handed hitters was .236

this year, down from .254 in 2016, when lefties were one point below the big league average.

Luis Arraez's .316 average for Minnesota was the lowest by an American League batting champion since Boston's Carl Yastrzemski hit .301 in 1968.

Velocity has a lot to do with the fall.

There were 3,356 pitches of 100 mph or more, 0.05% of the major league total of

703,918, according to MLB Statcast. That was up from 1,829 in 2021 and 1,056 in 2019.

Minnesota's Jhoan Duran had the most 100 mph pitches with 392, followed by Cincinnati's Hunter Greene (337), St. Louis' Jordan Hicks (274) and Ryan Helsey (237) and Seattle's Andrés Muñoz (209).

Duran averaged 100.8 mph with his fastball, Muñoz 100.2 and Hicks 100.1.

"Every time that bullpen door swings open, it's velocity," Atlanta manager Brian Snitker said.

The guys, they weren't like that. The closers weren't throwing like they are now. But it's kind of the way they are growing up and now they are trained — and amazing to me, the number of them, too. It's like they just keep coming."

The average four-seam fastball velocity was 93.9 mph, up from 93.7 mph in 2021 and 93.1 mph in 2015, when Statcast first began measuring.

"The way the game is now, everybody's throwing that hard. It's not fun to face, but it's just how the game is," Seattle's Ty France said.

"To be able to step in the box on this stage, it was pretty cool."

Home runs dropped to 5,215 from 5,944 last year and a record 6,776 in 2019.

The gap between strikeouts and hits narrowed to 1,135 from a record 2,661 last year. Strikeouts topped hits for the first time in 2019. After increasing annually from 2005 through 2019, when there were a record 42,823 whiffs, strikeouts dropped to 42,145 in 2021 and 40,812 this year. □



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